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Advertisements of Indecent and Immoral Nature.  
By a majority of one vote the Board of the Sun has decided that the present law regarding the publication of advertisements of indecent and immoral nature is not sufficient to protect the public and that it is necessary to amend the law.

This is a half measure as to execution, but does not cure it. It proposes a position where the surgeon's knife is needed. It would leave the law as it is today; an enactment designed to put the burden of government on a few and to create a privileged class of citizens in whose behalf the Congress deliberately created a special exemption.

The vice of the income tax is fundamental. It springs from the original purpose of its authors. That purpose was not to impose an equitable general tax, but to open the pockets of the few for the benefit of the many.

The Senate Democrats now propose to amend the law, and as they propose to amend it, they propose to amend it to the detriment and not to remedy the evil.

The fact that the proposal now under consideration may not be adopted is of comparatively trivial importance.

The Cost of Gasoline.  
According to the Government report just issued more crude petroleum was marketed in this country in 1915 than ever before in the history of the industry.

A great quantity was sent abroad, a good percentage of the remainder was used in the production of gasoline for which the motor car and gas engine owners paid the highest prices on record.

This is a gasoline age, and what the users wish to know is will the present prices be continued? The oil production of the first six months of 1916, according to an estimate just made, is about half of last year's.

There seems nothing to indicate that the year's yield will not equal that of 1915. A hopeful feature of the report is that the great activity in the industry has led to the exploration of new fields and the development of recently discovered sources of supply.

The fields in the East, from which once came almost the entire production, have decreased in output. But in place of them there have been developed the great wells of the Oklahoma-Kansas, the California and the Gulf sections.

The Oklahoma-Kansas fields are now the greatest centers in the United States for the production of crude petroleum. They are producing more than one-third of the country's supply.

Explorations are under way in Montana and Wyoming, with promise of valuable discoveries.

The indications, then, are that the supply for 1916 will equal that of last year. The end of the war will open up the supply in Russia and Rumania.

By that time, too, the newly discovered fields in South America may become important factors in the oil industry.

We have borne much from the war, and apparently the gasoline user must still exercise patience. But if there is no right when peace comes he will have a right to insist upon knowing why high prices continue.

Raymond Robins's Choice.  
From many well trained Democratic throats we shall hear today that the endorsement of Mr. Hughes by Raymond Robins of Chicago and the Progressive party is an incident of no significance.

In this way the supporters of Mr. Wilson always receive announcements of new adherents to his opponent. But the facts in this case are known and are not to be hidden.

Mr. Robins was brought in every conceivable way to throw his influence against Mr. Hughes.

He was wanted for himself and for what he represents; because he would be useful in the campaign as a

worker, and because his allegiance would exert a powerful influence among hesitating Progressives.

All the inducements offered to him did not prevent Mr. Robins from exercising his independent judgment. His conversion to the Republican candidate was the result of mature deliberation.

He did not follow an emotional impulse, but conformed to the results of an analysis of the records and purposes of Democrats and Republicans.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hughes, that brought conviction with it. He chose Mr. Hughes because for him, as for the thousands of other Progressives who have enrolled under the Hughes leadership, neither Mr. Wilson nor his party offers or can offer the inducements of sincerity and capacity in their appeal for recruits.

The Police Do Take Sides.  
From Mayor Mitchell's statement of Saturday with regard to the situation created in this city by the strike of trolley car employees we take the following sentences:

"The employees of the company have a constitutional right to organize, while at the same time those who wish to take their places have a right to protection against violence as far as it is possible to give it to them."

"One thing I wish to make clear is that the police will not be used to take sides."

We have pointed out that as there are three "sides" to this controversy, one of which is the public's, the police, if they do their duty, must "take sides."

They must maintain order; if they do they will assure to the public continued operation of the transportation systems of the city.

When they fall in their duty they are still taking sides, for they are then playing into the hands of those who seek to deprive 5,000,000 men, women and children of the use of an essential public utility.

What is the Mayor's measure of the possibility of protection against violence? He speaks as if some bounds were set beyond which he and his subordinates cannot or will not go.

This is a new doctrine. Every resource of government is at the disposal of the authorities; the whole power of the State backs them up; and if that is insufficient to furnish ample protection against violence we shall have not a mere strike of dissatisfied trolley car motormen and conductors but a revolution for the suppression of which an even greater power may be enlisted.

Boodling Who Is Foolish Minded.  
Another voice is heard in protest against the Binet-Simon tests for the determination of mental intelligence.

The editor of *American Medicine* discusses the chaos which has resulted from the slavish application of sets of questions supposed to be answerable by children of various ages.

He points out that in some cases children under nine years can answer only the questions for children of seven years are considered mentally defective; in other instances the persons giving the tests have taken three years retardation as proof of feeble-mindedness.

In testing children over nine years there has been equal divergence. The result of this and of the application of the tests by amateurs in psychology has been that "the various figures which have been presented as indicative of the extent of feeble-mindedness among delinquents are so startlingly high that they are practically unbelievable."

The breakdown of the Binet tests is illustrated by the case of deaf children, who are about three years behind the average child in school. Retardation of varying extent may be due to speech defects or simply to malnutrition.

Every one knows how neglected adenoids may hinder the child's mental and physical growth.

With all these facts plainly known it might be thought that rigid artificial attempts to classify the mentally unintelligent would be definitely abandoned.

Instead of that there seems to be a tendency, considered rather approvingly by *American Medicine*, to go ahead on the assumption that the "lowest 3 per cent." in the "community" are to be regarded as feeble-minded. What "community"? And how are the "lowest 3 per cent." to be determined to be such? It would seem as if the application of a little common sense to psychology were in order.

A Germany Without Hohenzollerns.  
A treaty of peace in which neither William of Hohenzollern nor any member of his family shall have a part is the vision of a Parisian, Joseph Reinach.

Upon the head of Germany's reigning house he heaps the responsibility of the war and all the horrors that have followed it.

How the elimination is to be effected is not disclosed. But "the question of the Hohenzollerns will become more important every day."

In the exile of Napoleon to be repeated and the Kaiser with his numerous descendants and great family connection to be transported beyond seas at the end of the war? Or is the change to be brought about within the German Empire itself?

So far the German people have not manifested a great desire to rid themselves of their rulers. It is scarcely to be believed that the slow going, mild mannered inhabitants of Baden, Wuertemberg and other South German States have approved of the Prussian militarism or frightfulness, yet they have fought as a unit to sustain the empire.

Prussia undoubtedly is the most populous State of the Confederation; it has seventeen of the sixty-one votes in the Bundesrat and

226 of the 397 in the Reichstag. To these may be added the votes of the Reichland of Alsace and Lorraine and a majority of the smaller duchies and principalities. In fact, when Bismarck laid the foundation of the empire he saw to it that Prussia should rule and the Hohenzollerns hold fast.

The contentment of the German people with their conditions has been so frequently affirmed that even they seem to have come to consider a revolution an impossibility.

Von Bismarck in his recent works took great pains to show that the Germans were not fitted for a republic, that they could not govern themselves, and that they required a strong hand like the Hohenzollerns to guide them.

The Hohenzollerns have loomed large in German history. They have shown a wonderful thrift. Getting and holding has been as much a part of their motto as "Gott mit uns."

Their rise from the obscurity of a small South German family has been marked by an ability to triumph over great obstacles and a political capacity for winning against odds.

To them ruthless militarism and its accompanying *schiefligkeit* are by no means modern tactics.

The time may come when Europe will rid herself of Hohenzollernism, but the present indications are that the Allies, whether they wish to do so or not, must finally treat with the head of that house.

Mr. Hughes Makes More Advances for Himself.  
After CHARLES EVANS HUGHES dispassionately and artistically removed the political hide from the person of the Democratic candidate for President in 1908 neither WILLIAM J. BAYAN nor his supporters thought it necessary to question the then Governor of New York as to his attitude on any of the questions at that time engaging public attention.

His sentiments were clearly and forcibly expressed; even Mr. BAYAN was able to comprehend the significance of Mr. HUGHES's words, protected though his sensibilities are by an egotism of the toughest and most resistant nature.

Mr. HUGHES has started West again, this time in support of his own candidacy for President. He departs from the Atlantic seaboard with the plan of his appeal fully developed and carefully worked out.

With the resolution that has characterized him in all his public acts he has refused to be bullied or cajoled into what he conceived to be a premature disclosure of his purpose and has declined to be snared by those who sought to win from him declarations he believed it unwise to make.

So he takes up his campaign not on terms set by his adversaries but under conditions he selects for himself. He has shrewdly perceived the efforts to put him on the defensive and has succeeded in arranging the times and circumstances of his expositions of belief to meet the requirements of his own good judgment and not to gratify the purposes of his enemies.

Mr. HUGHES's Youngstown speech in the first Taft campaign was a notable campaign address. Its success was in no small measure due to its author's wisdom in the choice of time, place and occasion for its delivery.

He enjoys to-day the advantages flowing from previous such as he showed eight years ago, and we do not doubt that he will improve his opportunities in 1916 as he did in 1908.

General Joffre's Prediction.  
General Joffre's utterances since the beginning of the war have differed from those of numerous other commanders in that while they never admitted the possibility of defeat for the Allies they were not designed to belittle the power of the enemy or to deceive those to whom they were addressed as to the magnitude of the task lying before them.

Confident in tone, these addresses were not tainted with boastfulness, and consequently they have inspired a belief in Joffre's sincerity and truthfulness among all who have followed his course.

It is this quality of the French generalissimo that gives weight and importance to his declarations that the tide of success has begun to flow strongly for the Allies and that their triumph is approaching.

From other lips such opinions would command only passing attention; a political purpose, the necessity of heartening hard pressed soldiers, reassurance for the civil population, would be suspected as motives for their publication.

But Joffre, like Kitchener, has never minimized the labors or the dangers that must be overcome to win ultimate victory; he has never underestimated the resources, courage or skill of the enemy, and in consequence of his habitual caution his present sanguine expectations cannot fail to make a deep impression.

"A job for every Filipino" is the latest Democratic campaign slogan.

Chance for Hughes to win in Texas—Newspaper headline.

But the treasurer of the Republican National Committee will draw few checks for Texas workers.

It will be observed that President MAHON of the trolleyman's union did not find it necessary to go abroad on the eve of the Westchester strike to write a pamphlet.

This will enable us to kick out the American commission, always unfriendly to Germany and which gives the enemy of the Fatherland much valuable information concerning Germany's position—Count RENTHOF.

A grave charge; it is too serious to be disregarded. What member or members of the commission have thus betrayed their trust? When and where did they violate their duty in this manner? And if Count RENTHOF's accusation is based on fact, why has the

German Government not suppressed the informers?

While some of President Wilson's friends affect to believe that Mr. HUGHES's acceptance speech was weak, feeble, pointless and without effect, the Illinois Aurora Borealis counts such weakness, Jim HAM, the radiant, says that Republican criticisms of the Wilson "policy" toward Mexico are "treasonable."

Most American citizens know what treason is and rule their tongues accordingly, but Jim HAM is so busy talking he cannot be expected to master even the elementary distinctions between words.

Dr. CARANHA's notes give the Administration much trouble; so did those which came from HUGHES's Government. But Wilson's admiration for the de facto leader may spring from the infatuation with a rotund and vague literary style.

Senator TACOTT has taken a pointer dog to the Senate. This is his answer to the challenge of CHAMP CLARK's hound dog. As the fashion spreads it will be interesting to see what Congressmen appear with dachshunds.

The Turk is still "somewhere east of Buz."

FOR A CLEAN PEOPLE.  
Are Numerous Inexpensive Shower Baths Needed?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: All "splash" weeks and other such efforts to increase the popularity of the city's baths, especially among the very poor, are commendable; but are the baths themselves adequate?

A large proportion of the population has no means of keeping a decently clean. Perhaps some tenement dwellers luxuriate in filthy living conditions.

The author of "Uns Wast Out," an American who lived for some time in the Italian quarter of Boston, seems to think so. But is it not believable that thousands of the city's poor, who have always kept clean, should be so filthy?

Certainly small inducement is given to them to contribute their share to the healthfulness of the community. We need not be surprised that an epidemic gets a start and that when it is started it is so hard to stop.

Expensive bath houses, necessarily few because of the high cost of the tiled pools and what not, are not essential. Nothing is essential but running water in the simplest form of shower, housed in a plain, cheap building.

When one comes out of the ocean he takes a fresh water shower of this sort and expects no elegant trimmings. Would such an arrangement be too simple for the city to provide?

The money put into the municipal baths at Coney Island was well spent, but Coney is far from Manhattan. Why shouldn't charity begin nearer home?

Nor would it be charity either, but a preventive measure of the most salutary kind, for the most of the city's population is filthy. It is only too obvious to discriminating persons that a bath at Coney is one of the very few "splashes" in the lives of many of the island's patrons.

It is visionary to suppose that there are many spots along the river fronts that could be utilized for a variety of shower houses. It is in summer that these would be of the greatest benefit, and at that season no problem of providing artificial heat would be presented. I believe that more baths would go far to transform summer conditions in this city.

W. D. CORWELL.  
New York, August 5.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS.  
A Professional Authority on the "Udder Alarm" Now Prevailing.

From the Medical Record.  
The epidemic of poliomyelitis which is now present in New York city and neighborhood is extending over almost the whole of the city and the widespread publicity which has been given to it.

To judge from the almost hysterical quarantine measures instituted in various localities—in old and new Connecticut of all places—one would think it as contagious as smallpox among the unvaccinated or as yellow fever two decades ago.

To quote the apprehensions of these timorous health officers the publication of authoritative articles such as one appearing in *Public Health Reports* for July 14, 1916, is commendable.

Dr. Wade H. Frost, passed assistant surgeon, U. S. E. H. S., writes here of the infectivity of infantile paralysis, summarizing in part as follows:

The rapid spread of epidemics over wide areas, their spontaneous decline after only a small proportion of the inhabitants have been attacked, and above all the peculiar incidence in young children, have not been satisfactorily explained by any hypothesis other than that the infective agent during epidemics is widespread, reaching a large proportion of the population, but only occasionally finding a susceptible individual.

Usually a young person, in whom it produces characteristic morbid effects. Assuming that the infective agent is the well established facts collected by epidemiological students are compatible with the evidence of laboratory experiments that the disease is directly transmissible from person to person.

On the whole, perhaps, this is the most reasonable manner of regarding the infectious nature of poliomyelitis. Only a comparatively few persons are susceptible, and these, with a few exceptions, are generally greater in the first half decade of life, thereafter progressively diminishing until in adult life there is a very general immunity to natural infection.

Ten Little Question Marks.  
Ten little question marks, standing in a line,  
Raymond Robins saw the coop, then there were nine.

Nine single question marks, fruit of high desire,  
A fact bumped one roughly, then there were eight.

Eight solitary question marks, full of lofty yearning,  
An author said a love yarn, then there were seven.

Seven question marks, playing at Coney Island,  
Cousin Johnny told his tale, then there were six.

Six busy question marks, buzzing like a hive,  
Georgia's Hardwick opened his lips, then there were five.

Five saddened question marks, feeling sick and sore,  
Vance McCort dropped the ball, then there were four.

Four frightened question marks, all bereft of sleep,  
Tommy Marshall made a speech, then there were three.

THE STRIKE MAKER.  
"If we organize these railway men we shall get 25,000 more members, each paying dues of \$1 a month. That will be \$250,000 more a year in the treasury," said the Strike Maker, lighting a good cigar.

"But suppose the strike doesn't succeed?" asked his close friend.

"You mistake my point. The success of the strike is immaterial. Whether it wins or fails we have these thousands of new members all paying their little dues. That's what counts."

The Strike Maker explained between puffs. He was silent for a moment and then he condescended further:

"I know, you can't stand still in my business. You've always got to be going ahead. Of course in a few years railway strikes will be played out; the membership in our association will dwindle, men won't pay their dues and these won't be any money in organizing them. But by that time I'll have something else going."

"How do you decide what you'll take up next?" asked his friend, fascinated by the presence of genius.

"There's only one safe rule. You must break into an industry that is affected as largely as possible with a public interest," said the Strike Maker decidedly.

"Now, transportation is ideal for the purpose. It is so vital that you can't play devil with the whole life of a great city, get the maximum of advertising and make really big money, with a strong chance of actually winning the strike, in which case the profits are much greater, for dues can be raised a notch or two to skim off the cream."

"Of course, there are other things that are good—telegraphs, telephone (only women are so unmanageable), electric lighting, gas and so on. But not bother with strikes in any little private industry. The public can't be made to care about them. It isn't affected, you see. Of course the really ideal thing would be high grade, full count, straight grain safety matches than there is in the case of other articles of commerce."

The difficulty is found in the fact that so many jobbers, who do not hear the individual complaints of the users, are satisfied to sell a second or third grade safety match for the sake of the slight difference in the price, which except in the case of the very poorest matches in the market does not exceed two to five cents on every 144 boxes, a very trifling matter compared with the actual difference in quality.

It is true that match head material is exceedingly scarce at present and some of the ingredients are abnormally high, but the manufacturers on the other side have succeeded in overcoming great difficulties and have found it possible to maintain the standard of their product with little or no variation, and while the price of safety matches to-day is nearly 100 per cent. above pre-war prices, a considerable part of this advance is due to the tremendous advances that have been made in freight rates, war risk and the like.

I sympathize with the smoker who has experienced trouble with safety matches of cross grain, perhaps, and heads, knobby sticks, &c., but after all the fault is only with the consumer, who as a rule pays no attention to the brand of matches he buys or where they come from or the quality of the match, but drops a penny in the slot and takes a box of whatever brand falls out.

It is only requires the extra effort to insist upon that which is good, as he would in the case of an article of greater value and of more importance.

AN IMPORTER.  
CHICAGO, August 5.

THE GIRL HE LEFT BEHIND.  
Further Revelations of the Sentiment of Guardsmen's Wives.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It was with much interest I read the letter published in *The Sun* and signed by a "Guardman's Wife." What she says is only too true.

Why should the border just to satisfy some of the men in authority? The guardsmen were perfectly willing to go to the border to protect it, but now that all danger has passed they should be sent home to attend to their business and take care of their families.

I am the mother of one of those boys and his letters to me are anything but reassuring.

He says there is a great deal of sickness, principally stomach trouble, and as there has been so much rain they are simply "swimming" in mud. Then again the odors are disgusting.

The place is swarming with flies and at meals the boys are always eating "army" of flies around. Now the meals they serve to the fellows being none too appetizing and augmented with flies, it is any wonder the men are sick and disgusted? Instead of "hardening" the men, it seems to me they are undermining their health, as it stands to reason that the men, when they are in camp ground and then in the morning put on damp clothes he is sowing the seeds of consumption and other diseases.

With respect to the married men and men with dependents being sent home I believe the War Department issued orders to the effect that such men be sent home. My son is a married man with a family to support and he took advantage of the order by making application for release. This application was sent in more than two weeks ago, but up to the present time he has been unable to get any satisfaction.

Cannot something be done to have the men sent home to their families?

If there were any good reason for keeping the men at the border there would be no complaints, but in my opinion (and undoubtedly it is the opinion of a great many) the whole thing is a farce.

President Wilson says the men are there to protect the border and General O'Flynn says the men are there for drill. Who is right?

As the border does not seem to need protection and as the rain and mud prevent drilling, why keep the men there any longer?

A GUARDSMAN'S MOTHER.  
BROOKLYN, August 5.

Where Prohibition Prohibits.  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It does seem frequently stated that prohibition does not prohibit. The latest statistics from Halifax, N. S., a notoriously "wet" city that has established a really truly prohibition, even the latest statistics show a restraining of police and similar offences in July, 1915, as 206; in July, 1916, they numbered 25. These figures speak for themselves.

WILLIAM GILL.  
Dorchester, Mass., August 5.

MATCHES.  
An Importer Calls Careless Consumers to Account.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have read with interest the several articles appearing recently in your columns referring to matches, some of which I am inclined to think give a wrong impression to the reader.

The safety match of to-day, while not physically perfect, is unquestionably a long step in advance of the strike any match, particularly with reference to its safety properties. It is a fact that the percentage of safety matches used as against strike anywhere matches in all civilized countries of the world bears a close relation to the loss per capita from fire.

It is also a fact that the safety match is gradually coming into more general use in this country, following the popular agitation of the subject and the increased knowledge in consequence, the United States is still far behind the principal European countries in their use.

In England, for instance, the percentage of safety matches as against strike anywhere matches is in the neighborhood of 50, while in the United States it is less than 10 per cent., according to recent statistics. This is attributable no doubt to the slowness with which the United States has passed laws against the use of dangerous matches for public safety.

The statement in one of your articles to the effect that the only "safety" or "strike on the box" matches manufactured in this country are of very inferior quality is quite true. Most of the "safeties" in common use come from Norway and Sweden, and latterly a considerable quantity from Japan.

While there are quantities of more or less inferior goods on the market, particularly those from Japan, the same may be said of practically every commodity of everyday use.

The best safety matches in the market come from Norway, and there is no more difficult article to secure a strictly high grade, full count, straight grain safety match than there is in the case of other articles of commerce.

The difficulty is found in the fact that so many jobbers, who do not hear the individual complaints of the users, are satisfied to sell a second or third grade safety match for the sake of the slight difference in the price, which except in the case of the very poorest matches in the market does not exceed two to five cents on every 144 boxes, a very trifling matter compared with the actual difference in quality.

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